

BLONDIE



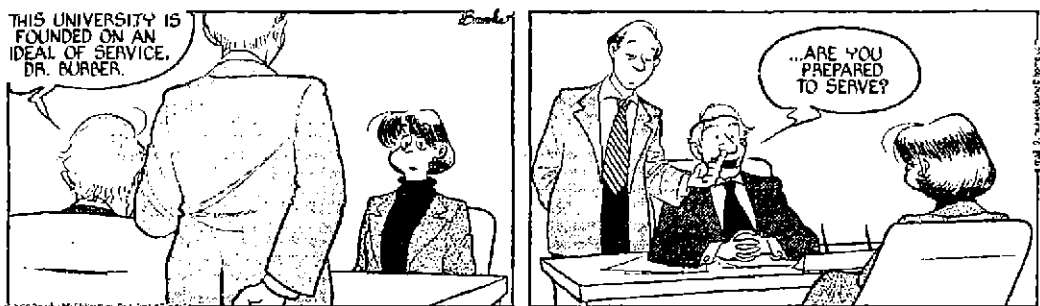
SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



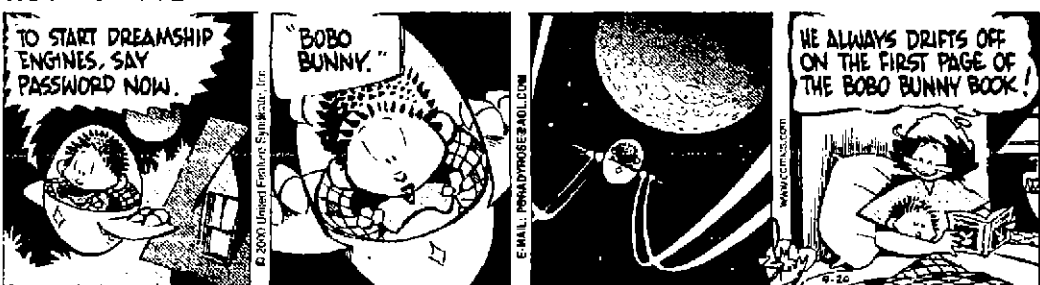
9 CHICKWEED LANE



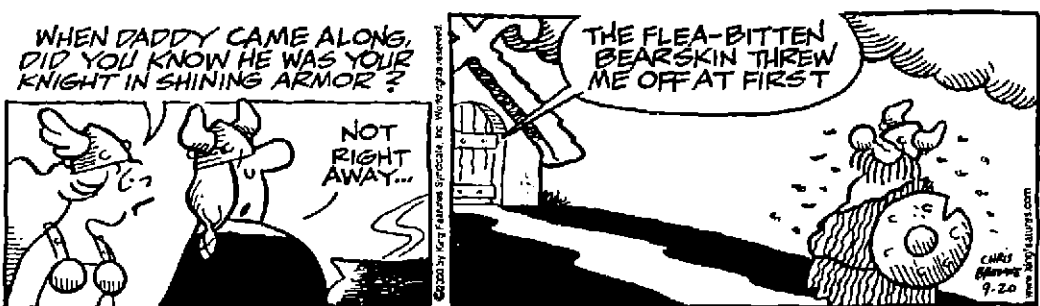
JUMP START



ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



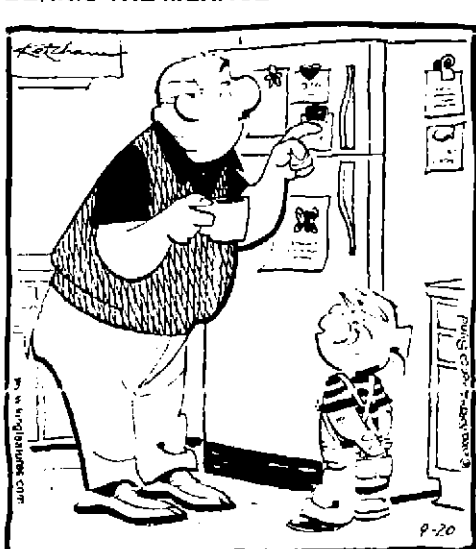
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



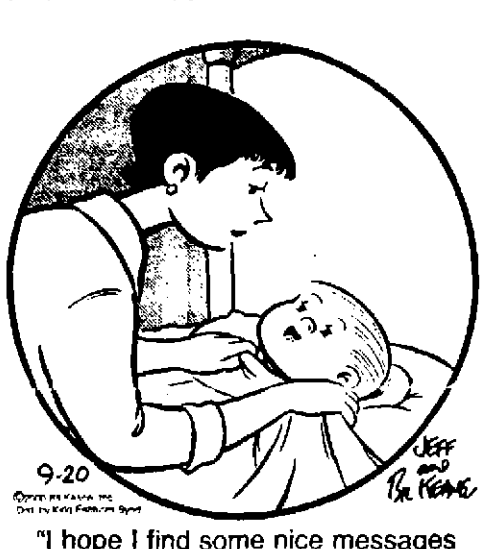
DILBERT



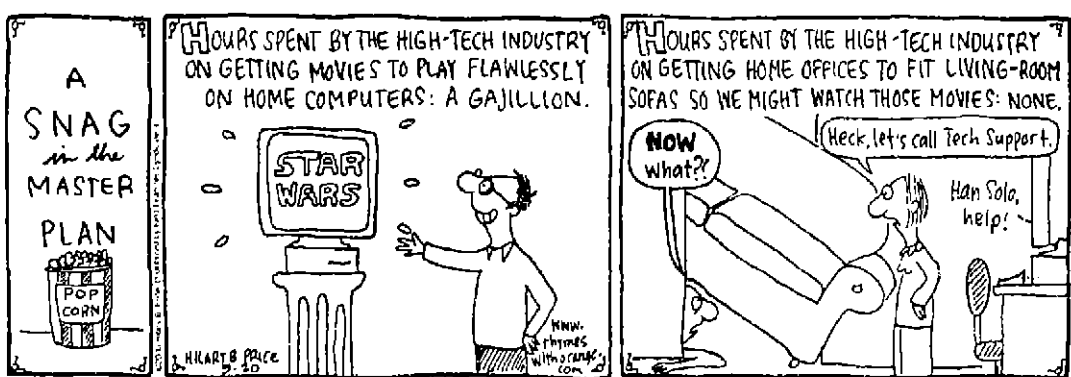
DENNIS THE MENACE



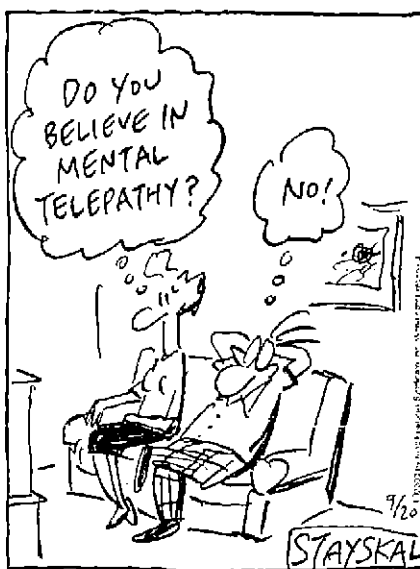
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Basketball Hall of Fame coach Red Auerbach is 83. Actress Peg Phillips is 82. Singer Gogi Grant is 76. Psychologist Joyce Brothers is 72. Actress-comedian Anne Mearns is 71. Actress Sophia Loren is 66. Rock musician Chuck Panozzo (Styx) is 53. Former hockey player Guy Lafleur is 49. Jazz musician Peter White is 46. Actress Betsy Brantley is 45. Actor Gary Cole is 43.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

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G	B	M	A	A	I	E
U	O	W	T	R	H	G
U	A	E	L	C	D	U
F	G	R	L	O	O	E

PAR SCORE 80-90
by JUDD

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (from Webster's and CSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers)). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 9/20/00

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

Scoring: Double Word Score, Triple Word Score, Double Letter, Triple Letter

For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Thursday, Sept. 21

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Serious conversation about feelings might be absolutely unavoidable.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You have empowered yourself through knowledge of your financial situation. Now use that power to improve your life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might experience an unusually high level of emotional disturbance.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You will be commended for your strengths.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) If you feel like throwing a tantrum, count to 10 and think about whether you're entitled.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Spend quality time with friends, and forget about work-related responsibilities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make a list of all the things you should do but have been avoiding.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are a role model and a comfort to others now, whether you realize it or not.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Unfortunately, you probably won't win the next lottery drawing. So don't puzzle over the numbers for too long — save your energy for a better outlet.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Personal relationships are worth the work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Focus on the mundane; you will find that small changes affect the big picture.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Be as young and playful as you want to be.

WORD SLEUTH

PARTS OF A BICYCLE

K F C Z W T P Q W N R K I F C
Z W U R D P E T H U M J H E C
Z X U H A N D L E B A R S S Q
N L J R G E A L E K I C Z X V
T R N P E N L T L M C L J H E
C A Y I M I S W S V T O R P N
L K I G A E N E G K E C R B Z
X W U R R H K N V S C R P P O
M L E I F O C J A L I I G E S
D D T P P B A Y X P A W K U T
T A E S R A E G S Q P V O N L

Yesterday's unlisted clue: BARNYARD
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: MADE FROM LINKS

Derailleur	Handlebars	Rims	Tires
Frame	Kickstand	Seat	Valves
Gears	Pannier	Spokes	Wheels
Grips	Pedals	Sprocket	

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For solution, see Classified.

ACES

By Bobby Wolff

Test yourself against today's slam. What would you lead against six hearts? An average player, fearful of giving South a free spade finesse, might choose the passive lead of the club 10. Although the lead offers a free club finesse, it is not damaging — dummy enjoys no useful discard on South's club ace. The real damage comes from conceding a tempo to declarer. After South wins the club lead and draws trumps, he can test the diamonds. And when dummy's fourth diamond sets up, South enjoys a spade discard to score the slam. The defenders' goal should be to develop a second trick, ready to cash, when declarer concedes his expected loser. With today's West cards, the best chance to develop a second winner is to attack in spades. South's best chance is to win dummy's spade ace and finesse in diamonds, hoping for West to have Q-J-x. Unfortunately for South, when he loses a diamond finesse, the defenders add a spade trick for one down. Might a spade lead backfire? On occasion it might. However, in the long run, the attacking lead wins by a huge margin, and the spade lead would be an automatic choice of top players.

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South
The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All pass

Opening lead: ?

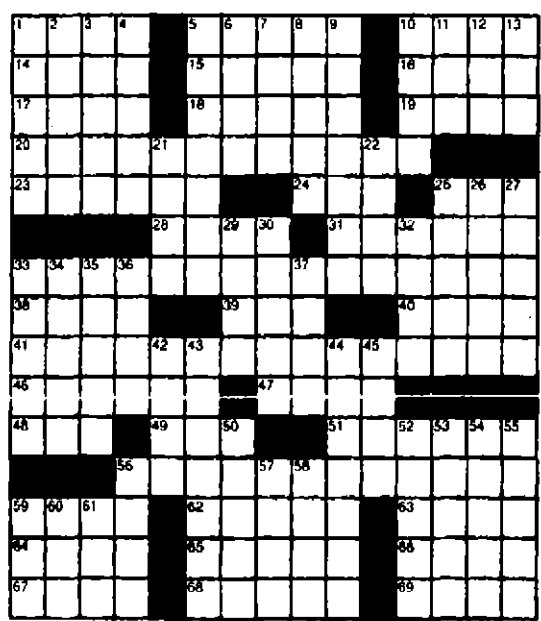
N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0809

- ACROSS**
- Prefix with sailing
 - They're made of whole cloth
 - Holiday music?
 - Toward the windless side
 - Island Sound
 - Blue Bonnet product
 - Drape holders
 - Company once called Allegheny
 - Players wear masks for this
 - Start of a silly question
 - Treeless tract
 - Just enough to wet the lips
 - Frowning
 - Coat with plaster, say
- DOWN**
- Witch's laugh
 - Question, part 2
 - Rose's husband, on Broadway
 - Nonpareil
 - Study, and then some
 - Question, part 3
 - "Whoa, ___!"
 - Cozy
 - Draft letters
 - "Yay!"
 - CNN's Rowland
 - End of the question
 - 1986 World Series site
 - Indian head, once
 - Indian head, once
 - Chicken
 - Pontificate
 - Clearasil target
 - Emerald
- 59-Across** player, in brief
- 69-Down**, in a way
- DOWN**
- Home of L'Express
 - Overhead
 - Cover the gray again
 - "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" writer
 - "Doonesbury" cartoonist
 - "I understand," facetiously
 - Help during hard times
 - Shortens a sentence, maybe
 - 1973 Pacino blockbuster
 - Funny Bishop
 - Chalet site, perhaps
 - End of a series
 - Pulitzer winner
 - Akins
 - French twist, e.g.
 - On ___ with
 - Mini, midi or maxi
 - 1942 Preakness winner
 - "The Silence of the Lambs" director
 - Yen
 - They may be tossed back
 - Multiple of XXXV
 - Bambi et al.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

LIPS IRMA LOSES
ACHE YOD USURP
SHIM COMO LANAI
LIGHTIN AUGUST
SCONE EIS EPEE
MINNIEY SAG
ABEL OAK RESNET
WILLIAM FAULKNER
STAYED CUL EDGE
RST FEATURE
BASE URI SCROD
YOKNAPATAWPHA
GRITS DALI INGE
OTERT ELAN NCAA
OARES SYNE GELT



Puzzle by Kelly Clark

Awards since 1956

34 Small brooks

36 Vaccinate

37 Marvel superheroes

42 Poop out

43 Loads, as a plate

44 That the sun will rise in the East, e.g.

45 Terse pans

50 Antediluvian

52 Hall of the Odd Couple

53 Dorothy, to Em

54 Fashion's Karan

55 Put a stake in a pool

56 **** review

57 Ersatz

58 Yahoo.com, e.g.

59 Hit the slopes

60 Holiness

61 It can be shocking

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5656 (95¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.